

BSG Postgraduate Conference Attendance Grant September 2016

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I was kindly awarded £750 from the British Society of Geomorphology to contribute to the costs of attending the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting. This was my first time attending the conference, and I gave an oral presentation on some of my PhD work in the session EP34A Sediment Size Input to Fluvial Networks: Production, Transformation, Delivery and Effects. This was a very interesting and lively session, starting with a number of talks considering the production of sediment on hillslopes before moving onto sediment grain size and shape evolution within the fluvial network.

My talk - "Where does all the gravel go? Abrasion-set limits on Himalayan gravel flux" was the final talk in this session, and considered the fate of gravel generated within the Himalaya and the effect that lithology and abrasion have on controlling gravel flux out of the mountain range. I felt that the talk was well received and was followed with a number of encouraging conversations after the session about my work. It was an excellent opportunity to communicate my research to a new audience, especially as some of my fieldwork was funded by the BSG. This is also particularly important for me in this final stage of my PhD whilst I am planning my future research options and directions. My paper based on this work has also recently been accepted into Nature, so I hope that my exposure at AGU will generate further interest in the full paper, and raise my profile at an international level as I start finishing my PhD up this year.

One of the attractions of AGU to me was the breadth and diversity of sessions available, as somebody working across a range of disciplines (geomorphology, tectonics, sedimentology, natural hazards). I attended a large number of sessions and left the conference with a list of new people and papers I need to look up! This is especially important to me at this point as I start to think about future research ideas and possible people I would like to contact for advice or possible collaborations. I particularly enjoyed the Sharp Lecture given by Alison Duvall (University of Washington) recognising her PhD and early career work in the Tibetan Plateau, and more recently, in the Pacific Northwest. I also attended the Young Geomorphologists event held one evening outside of the conference centre, where I was able to meet a range of other early career geomorphologists, and turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. Following the AGU conference, I also attended the Gilbert Club held at the UC Berkley campus. This day-long 'spin-off' event from the main conference is a great opportunity to meet and talk to a wider range of geomorphologists and also has a number of invited speakers who gave very interesting and varied talks.

Using the £750 awarded to me, I was able to cover the cost of my return flight between Edinburgh and San Francisco (£433) and a substantial chunk of my accommodation during my visit (£426 in total). The remaining costs (registration, subsistence) were covered by my NERC PhD stipend. Without the support of this BSG Grant I would not have been able to attend this conference, so it is very much appreciated.